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Hardiman bill to protect students and schools from MEAP mishaps sent to governor

Lansing — The Senate approved and sent to the governor late Thursday Sen. Bill Hardiman's bill that protects students and schools from being penalized if their Michigan Educational Assessment Program answer sheets are lost by the Michigan Department of Education or a state contractor.

"Students and parents need this peace of mind to ensure they aren't punished for something they had no control over," said Hardiman (R-Kentwood), who sponsored Senate Bill 787. "My bill also ensures school districts aren't unfairly penalized for missing tests."

Nine school districts in Michigan have had some MEAP answer sheets lost, leaving educators and parents to worry the state could sanction them for not having test results for all students. About 3,400 answer sheets are missing statewide. Of those, about 1,000 are from Grand Rapids schools.

Under SB 787, schools would not be unfairly designated as unaccredited or as not maintaining adequate yearly progress as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act because of missing results.

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